

RESOLUTION CADB 1-11

RESOLUTION CERTIFYING COMMERCIAL FARM OPERATION
AND
RECOMMENDING SITE SPECIFIC AGRICULTURE MANAGEMENT PRACTICE

WHEREAS, pursuant to the right to Farm Act, N.J.S.A. 4:1C-1 et seq. and the State Agriculture Development Committee regulations, N.J.2:76-2.3, a commercial farm owner or operator may make a request to the County Agriculture Development Board (hereinafter "Board") to determine if his or her operation constitutes a generally accepted management practice; and

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2011, Richard Degener, owner and operator of Enfin Farms located at 609 Sunset Boulevard, at Block 748, Lot 26.01, Lower Township made a request in writing to the Board for the development of a site-specific agriculture management practice (hereinafter, "AMP") to install a commercial kitchen for the processing and packing of the output of the commercial farm in a commercial kitchen which shall include initially but not limited to the production of artisan breads, pies, jams and jellies, and for the construction of a barn, greenhouse and improvements to an existing farm stand; and

WHEREAS, the Degeners have been working with the assistance of the Cape May County Rutgers Cooperative Service Agent on soil and irrigation issues to enhance farm production; and

WHEREAS, the Degeners have met with Heather Carr-Johnson of the Cape May Health Department and William Gaelstok of the Lower Township Planning and Zoning department to address all the issues of complying with health and safety regulations in regard to the construction of a commercial kitchen to process and package the output of the commercial farm, and to the construction of the barn, greenhouse, and improvements to an existing farm stand to market the value added products from their farm; and

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2010 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-2.3(c), the Board advised in writing the State Agriculture Development Committee and Lower Township of the request; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-2.3(b), the farmer provided proof that his/her agricultural operation is a commercial farm as defined at N.J.S.A. 4:1-C-3 and N.J.A.C. 2:76-2.1, proof of which is attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2011 members of the CMCADB, and Cape May County Planning Department conducted a site inspection of Enfin Farms; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2011 at its regular meeting, the Board was presented with the findings of the site inspection; and,

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2011, the Board agreed to develop a site specific AMP for Enfin Farms after making the following findings of fact, based on information and documentation provided to the Board by Enfin Farms, and information gathered during the site inspection:

1. The 22+- acre farm management unit is located in Lower Township, at 609 Sunset Boulevard, Block 748, Lot 26.01; and
2. Enfin Farms is a commercial farm as defined at N.J.S.A. 4:1C-3 and N.J.A.C. 2:76-21, which currently produces row crops, flowers, fruit crops including blackberries and raspberries worth \$2,500 or more annually and satisfies the eligibility criteria for differential property tax assessment pursuant to the Farmland Assessment Act of 1964; and
3. Enfin Farms has incorporated the production of wood from its

wood lot management plan into the farm operation by using the wood to fuel the wood fired clay oven used in the baking of bread and pies; and

4. Enfin Farms has installed a biomass furnace that will utilize remnant vegetation to generate controlled moderate temperatures in the greenhouse and to eliminate fossil fuels for the agricultural production of the farm; and
5. Enfin Farms has been a family farm operation for four generations , and is located in an area in which, as of December 31, 1997, agriculture has been a permitted use under the municipal zoning ordinance and is consistent with the municipal master plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Cape May County Agriculture Development Board determines that the installation of the commercial kitchen for the purposes of processing and packaging the output of the commercial farm in a commercial kitchen which shall include but not limited to the production of artisan breads, pies, jams, jellies; and the construction of the barn, greenhouse and improvements to the farm stand is approved as a site specific agricultural management practice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board shall forward a copy of its written recommendation of the site-specific AMP to Enfin Farms, the SADC, Lower Township, and any other individuals or organizations deemed appropriate by the Board within 30 days of the recommendation.

George B. Brewer, Jr. Chairman

Offered By:
Seconded By:
Yes:
Absent:
Adopted: